AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 09/909,988

Our Ref: Q64671
Art Unit 3724

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 with the following:

The rotary blade 58 has a rotatable shaft 62 with two ends, both of which ends are rotatably supported by bearings 64 and 66. The bearing 64 is secured to a cantilever-type plate member 68. Between the plate member 68 and a disk plate 61 is provided a coil spring 59 which biases the rotary blade 58 toward the fixed blade 54. Thus, a side surface 58A of the rotary blade 58 is pressed to the fixed blade 54 at a cutting point C (see Fig. 3). The fixed blade 54 has an upper surface and an inclined, relief surface, with these surfaces meeting at the cutting point C and forming an angle with each other (e.g., around 80°). When the rotary blade 58 is moved along the fixed blade 54, the rotary blade 58 rotates due to friction, so that the sheet P is reliably cut at the cutting point C.

Please replace the first paragraph of pages 12 with the following:

At step S200, the present current value I of the motor 104 is input, and at step S202, it is determined whether the present current value I exceeds the predetermined reference current value Io. At step S 204, if the former exceeds the latter, the CPU 90, via the display control unit 106, causes the display 108 to display an indication, e.g., a message indicating that the rotary blade 58 should be replaced.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims:

22. (New) A sheet cutter for cutting a sheet piece from a sheet by shearing, the sheet cutter comprising:

a fixed blade;